

WHY IT IS HELD HERE

Reasons for Selecting Richmond as the Place for This Reunion.

GEN. WISE'S MAGNIFICENT SPEECH

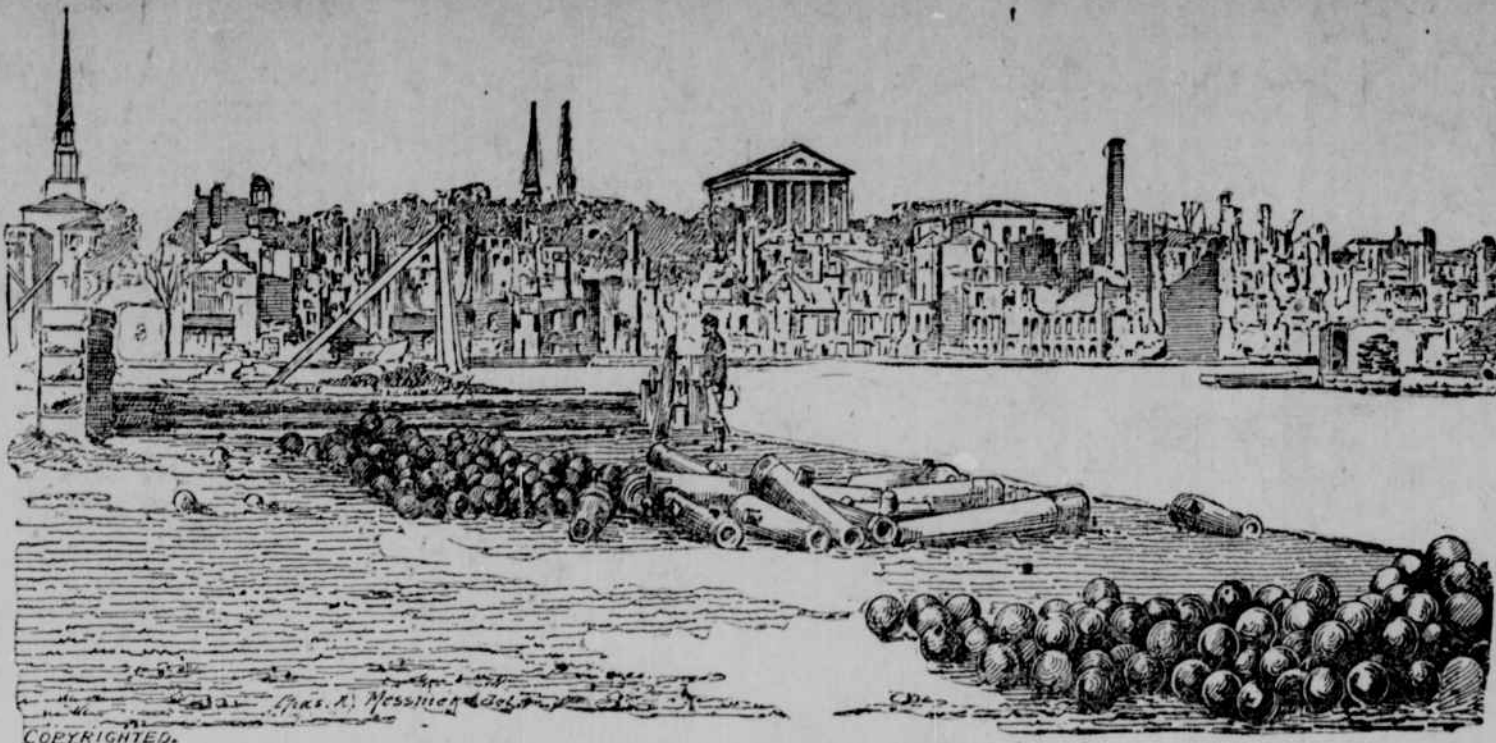
The Last Convention at Houston Went Wild When the Name of the Capital of the Confederacy Was Mentioned—Scenes Recalled.

It is an interesting fact at this time to know that just prior to the reunion of last year Richmond was less talked of as the place for holding the next annual gathering of the United Confederate Veterans than any other city mentioned in connection. When the name of the capital city of the Confederacy was mentioned in the great hall at Houston, however, as the place for the sixth reunion, the convention almost went wild with enthusiasm, and Richmond received more votes than Charleston, Atlanta, and Kansas City combined.

In the early spring of 1895 the Jefferson Davis Monument Association adopted a resolution, declaring that in the spring of the following (this) year they would lay the corner-stone of the monument proposed to be erected to the President of the Confederacy. If the United Confederate Veterans would agree to hold their sixth annual reunion in this city at that time.

This action of the Monument Association, was followed by the adoption of resolutions by Lee and Pickett camps, inviting the United Confederate Veterans to hold their convention in the capital of the Old Dominion, and witness the exercises attendant upon the laying of the corner-stone of the memorial to the late Executive of the Confederate States.

On the 14th of March, 1895, the Chamber of Commerce adopted the following resolution:



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HOW THE CITY LOOKED JUST AFTER THE EVACUATION.

In Houston, while on their way to Texas the contingent from this city saw from the newspapers that Richmond was hardly considered as being in the race for the sixth reunion. Upon arrival at Houston the Virginia headquarters were presided over by General Peyton Wise, Hon. J. Taylor Elliott, Judge George L. Christian, Colonel John B. Cary, Mr. D. C. Richardson, and others. General Wise was requested by the Virginia delegation to present to the convention at the proper time the claims of Richmond for the sixth reunion. The time for General Wise to address the convention on this subject came unexpectedly. It was the

Union, and which lost nothing of its luster from the way he bore it. The speech of General Peyton Wise inviting the association to hold its next reunion in his native city was a masterpiece of polished rhetoric, matchless in its expression of sacred sentiment, peerless in its rhythmic flow of impassioned eloquence. With masterly skill the orator played upon the feelings of the veterans from the various States, touching their tenderest

and where swelled upon the air the chorus of the rebel yell.

HER MONUMENTS SAY COME.

Her monuments majestically summoned you to come. In her eastern section, upon the hill of the church, where broke from Henry's frenzied lips the cry of "Liberty or death," stands in human form the echo of that cry—the private soldier of the Confederate States, the soldier that, mul-

riding toward the fabled day that stands upon the peak of Paradise, when he shall be drier still, fit to marshal the very hosts of Heaven.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAVIS.

Anon will arise the simulacrum of the bold and fearless rider, the fiercest Paladin, and the gentlest gentleman, the man with the nerve of the whirlwind, whether he kept a dainty slipper from the mud of



THE JEFFERSON HOTEL.

(The magnificent Hotel recently built by Major Lewis Ginter and Associates.) In addition, which was preceded by an eloquent preamble:

"Resolved, by the Chamber of Commerce, That this Chamber most cordially unites with Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans in inviting the United Confederate Veterans to hold their next annual reunion in this city, and on behalf of our people pledges the said organization a most cordial and hearty greeting and welcome to our city and State."

THE COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION. On the 23d of May, 1895, the City Council adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved by the Council of the City of

STIRRING SCENES.

On Thursday, the second day, however, when none of the delegates were thinking that the question would come up then, a motion was made which started the fight, and General Wise, a minute before little dreaming that the time for action was so near at hand, rose to his feet and addressed the convention. The scenes that then occurred can best be described by quoting from the Houston Daily Post, in

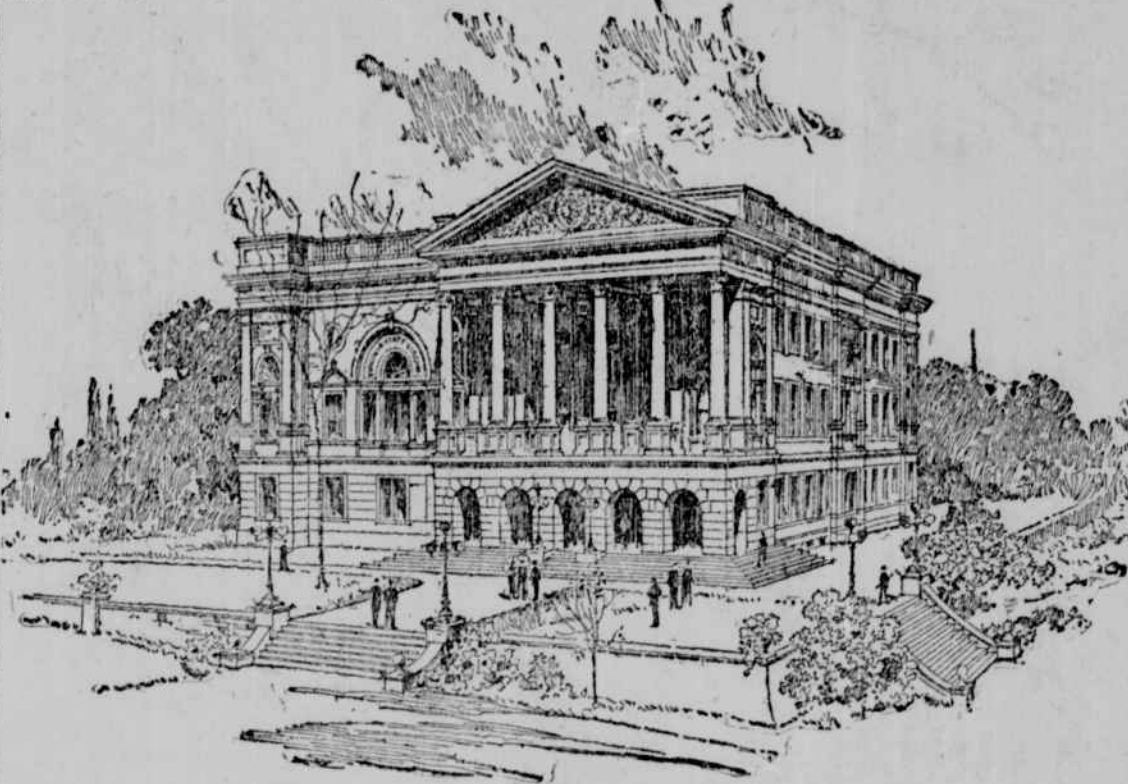
feelings, winning their admiration as much by the witchery of his oratory as by the splendor of his theme. It was as General Gordon afterward remarked, the gem of the reunion.

"The audience was swept into a frenzy of enthusiasm that found vent in bursts of applause which punctuated every sentence of the address. Cheer after cheer rent the air and shook the walls, hats were thrown up, and every evidence was given of the kindest appreciation and highest enjoyment upon the part of all

united, whether hungry and tentless or fed and sheltered, whether travel-stained and weary or fresh from slumber upon the bosom of his mother earth, made the best army that the world ever knew. The earth cannot contain his glory, because it ascends to Heaven, and because he is unique—the one soldier that earth ever produced who was general as well as soldier. He stands, they say, upon Pompey's pillar. Not so. He was no selfish conqueror. His lofty column is his own; applied, whether hungry and tentless or fed and sheltered, whether travel-stained and weary or fresh from slumber upon the bosom of his mother earth, made the best army that the world ever knew. The earth cannot contain his glory, because it ascends to Heaven, and because he is unique—the one soldier that earth ever produced who was general as well as soldier. He stands, they say, upon Pompey's pillar. Not so. He was no selfish conqueror. His lofty column is his own;

OF THE CAPITOL.

held the common weal of a nation upon the couch of his lance, the smile of utmost joy on his face; whether he listened to the strains of Swinny's banjo, or charged better than the Six Hundred at Balaklava, the very presentment, let it be, of our own darling Job Stuart. But there is a monument which shall be, but which God save the mark, is yet unbuilded, which most of all orders you to come. Did I say yet to be builded? Again, I say, God save the mark. By



THE NEW STATE LIBRARY BUILDING, TO THE EAST OF THE CAPITOL.

of us, in the land which Virginia gave to the United States, he lived in the South of us. He knew us, on every side of us, in every part of us, inspiring and inspiring by us, impregnated by us, and filling us in turn, he became the very type and father of us. He had known every joy which can fill the human heart. Blessed in his store, thrice blessed in his home; he led that happiest of all lives, the life of a cultured country gentleman. First found in public, he was leading his Mississippians to immortal fame upon the plains of Buena Vista. He became in turn Representative, Senator, Cabinet officer, President—his name blown about the world as the leader of established order, of a new essay of the Anglo-Saxon race in freer government, as the commander in chief of an army, the like of which for valor and fortitude the world had never seen. By and by the shadows came. At the very pinnacle of his freedom the eyes were put upon his wrists. At the moment when he had learned to mount with the eagle, and to look with eagle's eyes upon the sun, the sun went down, and a bull's-eye lantern scorched his very eyeballs. In the very nick of his truth to his people, to liberty and to law, he was dubbed a traitor, and commended to brand and penalty as a felon. He was the victim of your manacles, of your tortured eyesight, of your imputed treason, and felony. He bore his sufferings with all the pluck of Confederate armies, with all the grace and sweetness and dignity of Lee. He was worthy of you. But there were righteous judges in those days, the charges slunk away, ashamed to pollute his presence, and his suffering ended. Once more he is the inmate of a country home; once more blessed by the woman who exalts and who consoles, in the person of his noble wife, in the person of his noble daughter, who has become the daughter of every one of us, because she was born in our Confederacy, and be-

and enterprising city of to-day strikes one looking from the Manchester end of Mayo's bridge.

THE CITY IN RUINS.

The view of Richmond in ruins is taken from the south side of the basin, now mostly filled up and a large part occupied by the freight depot of the James-River division of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway. The spire seen on the extreme left is that of St. Paul's church. To the right of it we see the belfry of the jail-house in the Capitol Square. Looking over the trees in the Capitol Square we see the spire of the First Presbyterian church and that of the Broad-Street Methodist church. Further to the right stands the Capitol, and to the right of that the custom-house. All else included in the view is in ruins.

AS THE CITY APPEARS TO-DAY.

The second picture—that printed on the lower half of the page—is a view of the river front of Richmond as it appears to-day. The bridges shown in this illustration are, first, Mayo's, with the street-car upon it; next to the left the Richmond and Danville railroad bridge, with the locomotive upon it; next the Free bridge; next the Richmond and Petersburg railroad bridge; next the Tredegar bridge, crossing from Richmond to Belle Isle. On the extreme left of the picture is a clump of trees showing a small section of Hollywood Cemetery. Running the eye to the right we see the tall towers and the innumerable windows of the Jefferson Hotel. Next the Masonic Temple, with its short, cone-shaped tower; next Pratt's castle, on the edge of Gunble's Hill Park; next the Chesapeake and Ohio elevator, and near by the Gallego, Hax-oil, and other large mills and manufactories. The building in the centre of the picture with the portico is the State Capitol, where the Confederate Congress met. To the right and rear of it rises the city



RICHMOND'S MAGNIFICENT CITY HALL.

cause she was his daughter, and because she is one of the noblest of all noble women. There he lived until he was gathered to our other dead, and was brought to be buried on the banks of the river which brought the first of the Saxons to our shore, and murmurs its sweet requiem to one of the best and last of them. It is his monument that is our monument, whose corner-stone you shall lay in 1895. Will you, can you, refuse? I think not.

Hall, conspicuous by its tall tower. Near thereto is the State Library, in the Capitol Square. The next most conspicuous object is the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, in Marshall Park, a tall column on the extreme right of the picture. Of the eighty-seven churches in Richmond this view only shows glimpses of the following (beginning on the right and going from right to left): Third Presbyterian, St. John's, Trinity, First African Baptist, Monumental (the dome of which appears)



VIEW OF THE RIVER FRONT OF RICHMOND AS IT APPEARS TO-DAY.

Richmond, the Board of Aldermen concurring. That we most cordially endorse the action of the Chamber of Commerce of this city in inviting the next reunion of the United Confederate Veterans to be held in Richmond, on which occasion the corner-stone and monument to the late President of the Confederacy is proposed to be laid. That on behalf of our city and people we extend to these survivors a most cordial and hearty welcome on this and all proper occasions."

their issue of the day following. That journal says: "After some time spent in taking camp subscriptions for the monument fund, somebody moved that the association proceed to the selection of a place for its next meeting. This ceremony had been scheduled for to-day, but the delegates seemed impatient to have the matter settled and the election was ordered. "The first city put in nomination was Richmond, the capital city of the Confederacy, and the veteran charged with that duty was the bearer of a name historic in the annals of war and peace in the

GEN. WISE'S SPLENDID SPEECH.

General Wise spoke with fervor and eloquence. After a graceful introduction, he said: "I come to invite you to make your next encampment in my city; to sound the bugle-call of another and a different 'On to Richmond!'; to those who have a right to be there with or without invitation, because they shed their blood to save, not to win her. Her official bodies, her Council, and her Chamber of Commerce greet you thro' us and bid you to come and stand upon her hills, and by her flowing river; to see how the city of your love, which is our very own, the chosen seat of our Confederacy, has fared as a trust in their hands; how they have built her up in forms of beauty and things of life to be worthy of your renewed adoption. Her women, not less true because some men have, faint-hearted, fallen by the wayside, and no longer care for the goal; not less sweet because they no longer feed upon the sorghum of those times; not less gorgeously apparelled because they no longer attire themselves in the homely and the makeshifts of the good old days, but always wearing the true colors and their hearts upon their sleeves, whether balloon or skin-tight, ask you with all their might and main, and with all their dear hearts, to come. Fifty thousand of your dead, who sleep in Hollywood and Oakwood, who are the children of every State in the Confederacy, ask to have you commune with them to catch the inspiration which will make the New South, it may be, in fairer days, but always wearing the true colors and their hearts upon their sleeves, whether balloon or skin-tight, ask you with all their might and main, and with all their dear hearts, to come. 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